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Strange and Terrible News from
SHORDITCH,
OF A
WOMAN

That hath sold her self to the

DIVEL;
Living in
Badger-Alley;

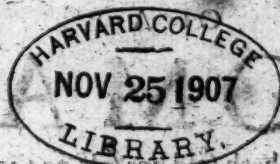
And lying at this present in a sad and miserable Condition; acknowledging that about Six-years since, she made a contract with the Di-vel written with her own Blood, and that her time was now expired within Six weeks; and she Irrecoverable to all Eternity; with the like Speeches of despair.

As also, how several able Ministers went to comfort her, with her full confession of her former evil life, and other passages between them.

With Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for D. M. in the Year, 1674.

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*Gift of
Mrs G. C. Nicholson*

Badger-Alley

And lying at this present in the
miserable condition, acknowledging that
he was lying in his bed, and that his time was
expiring within six weeks, and the irreparable
loss to all humanity, with the speeches of death.
At the same time several Ministers were to comfort him
with the consolation of his eternal life, and offer
prayers for him.

With Allowance

LONDON, Printed for D. M. in the Year 1774.

STRANGE NEWS

FROM

Shoreditch.

Amongst all the Engines wherewith the Prince of Darkness assaults us, there is none more dreadful and fatal than Despair; Hope can buoy up the soul a while in the fiercest tempest; but when once that is flung over-board, nothing but a terrible Shipwreck is to be expected. 'Tis a sin that refuses all means of Deliverance, and wilfully sinks those that are possess'd with it; a kind of unkind Ingratitude to Heaven, that when its infinite mercies upon repentance & amendment would receive us into pardon and favour; and though our sins be red as scarlet makes us appear as white as wool, yet we will needs question and disbelieve its gracious intentions, or scruple Gods omnipotency so far as to think he cannot forgive such a

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body of Death as that we feel overspreading our souls; forgetting that his mercies are over all his works, and that he so loved the world, that whilst we were yet enemies, he sent his Son to ransom us with his own blood, and die that he might save sinners, even the chiefest of sinners, if they with contrite and believing hearts entertain him.

Thus the Devil abuses souls to their own everlasting ruine by false opticks; at first he paints and Varnishes the most hideous Crimes, to make them appear amiable, and extenuates Transgressions though never so gross and voluntary; to let them seem, only humane frailties, fallies of youth, and venial mistakes and by those palliating arts, he puts off his adulterate Wares, and hushes people to sleep on the very brinks of Hell with large promises of security; but as soon as ever the Conscience is awakened by the Terrours of Divine Justice, then that he may divert them from a sincere Repentance and Conversion to God; this subtle Serpent quickly turns the other end of the perspective, and magnifies all our evils with the highest aggravations representing the smallest Lapses in most affrighting forms so hainous, that he suggests even infinite Mercy cannot without violation of its justice pardon them; nor may we with less admiration observe the proceedings of Divine Vengeance against grievous and irreclaimable sinners, that as they offended without Remorse, so they should be

be Convicted without Hope, of which the ensuing Narrative shows us a sad and dreadful Example.

One *Jane Oxy*, living at present (though in a State worse than Death it fell) in *Danger Alley* in *Shoreditch*, on Tuesday last being the 26 of *May* fell into a most lamentable Condition of horror and despair, Crying out that she was Damned to all Eternity, and that there was no hopes of her Salvation; That she had sold her self to the Devil, and should be hurried away into Everlasting Flames of Fire and Brimstone, in this strange kind of Raveing she continued all that Night, and ever since, which caused great wonder and amazement amongst the Neighbours and all others who in great numbers came to see her.

On the Friday the Minister of the Parish a Worthy Grave and Pious Divine, gave her a visit, and having discoursed with her for some time, desired to know the Reason of such her Dispaire. She acquainted him that she had been a most grievous Sinner, for many years and so highly offended God that she could nor hope for Mercy; That she had lived very Loosely and Debauchedly, and by unjust means defrauded several persons of their Goods, and that she had never married the person which is at present her Husband, but for fear that she was with Child; and that several years ago, she Counterfieted her self Bewitched, and to colour it the better, got a Trick of swallowing Pins, Nails, and Hair; and bringing them up again to the

the wonder of all that saw her, and then accused an old Country Man, and his Wife, that they had bewitched her, who thereupon were put in Prison and suffered much trouble, on that account of which they were wholly innocent: that being afterwards in St. Bartholomew's Hospital London, for Cure of a Distemper wherewith she was then afflicted, she pretended to fast several days together, and thereby deceived many people, who looked upon such her extraordinary abstinence as a thing strange and miraculous, whereas she had *Cheese* and other Provision privately hid in the Bed, of which she took her Opportunities to eat all the time of such her supposed wonderful Fast.

But being pressed to declare what she meant by saying, she had sold herself to the Devil; she voluntarily confest the same; and affirmed, that near six years since, being very poor and in a discontented condition she was walking in the fields, at which time the Devil in the shape and appearance of a Gentleman came to her, and asked her, what ailed her to be so sad, and the reason she seemed so pensive and discontented; To which she made answer, That she wanted money; If that be all, replies the disguised Tempter, there's money for thee, giving her half a Crown in her hand, and promised her she should not lack money for the future, but said, that she must then be his servant; To which she consenting, he prickt her hand or Arm with a pin, and drawing some blood, he there-

therewith wrote a Contract, by which he allowed her six years time, and then she was to be at his dispose. These six years she said were now expired all but six weeks, and now she had nothing to expect but the dreadful wages of such a sin, to be paid her in an eternity of misery.

The Minister in a large and excellent discourse endeavoured to comfort her, by setting forth the inestimable riches of Gods grace to the most flagitious sinners, at what time soever they should sincerely repent. To which she replied, that as she had renounced God, so now he had forsaken her, and that the Devil had taken possession, who was now really in her, and did already torment her. To which it was answered, that God could and would, if she applied herself to him, cast out Satan and trample him under her, notwithstanding all his wiles and subtilties. That *Adams* had no fewer than Seven Devils cast out of him, and yet came to be a blessed Disciple and follower of our Lord and Saviour, of whom the holy Scripture witnesseth, That *he lived and because much had been forgiven him*, and several other godly exhortation to that purpose. After which going to prayer, the Minister desired her to repeat the Lords prayer after him, which she did aloud with much fervent fervency and affection.

Another Minister coming to visit her, having discoursed with her above an hour, so as she seemed very much affected with his powerful persuasions

fions to disburthen her Soul of her sins, by a free
 and candid acknowledgment of them, and that
 she would cast her self by faith on the mercies of
 God; who is able to save to the uttermost all that
 come to him through Christ Jesus; she repeated
 most of the things aforesaid, but after he was gone,
 told some of the people about her, That she would
 gladly speak with that person again, having some-
 thing on her mind that much afflicted her, which
 she would willingly reveal and discover to him,
 whereupon he was sent for, and accordingly came
 and had private discourse with her, but then she
 would discover nothing, notwithstanding all the
 Arguments he could use to persuade her to it;
 she alledging, that she had not power then to de-
 clare her mind, as she before intended. **It being**
 to Several pious Ministers and other sober persons
 have been to visit her, amongst others a good and
 charitable Lady, hearing her amongst other dis-
 course say, That she should never be satisfied till
 she had seen and spoke with the old man and his
 wife in the County whom she had wronged, as
 aforesaid upon the suspicion of witchcraft, inqui-
 ring their names; and where they lived, has since
 caused a letter to be sent to them, desiring them
 to come up and that she will be at the Charges
 of their journey thither and return. **It being**
 Another Minister coming to visit her, having
 discoursed with her above an hour, told her some
 very much affected. **It being**

